

CONTRIBUTORS

The following organizations contributed to produce this survey:

- Department of Workforce Services
- Division of Child and Family Services
- Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC)
- Office of Violence Against Women and Families
- Utah Commission for Women and Families

For more information call or visit:

- Domestic Violence Information & Referral Line:
1-800-897-LINK (5465)
 - UDVC 801-521-5544
 - www.udvc.org
 - jobs.utah.gov
 - www.dhs.utah.gov



Designed and printed with funding provided by the Department of Workforce Services (equal opportunity employer/programs).



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162

DEFINITIONS

Domestic Violence: Primarily, though not exclusively, a crime committed by men against women including: a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors; psychological, sexual, and physical abuse; behavior used by an individual to hurt, dominate, and control an intimate partner.

Isolation: Someone controlling what you do, who you see and talk to; limiting outside involvement; or using jealousy to justify actions.

Coercion and Threats: Someone making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt you or other members of the household; threatening to leave, threatening to commit suicide, or making others do illegal things.

Intimidation: Someone making you afraid by using looks, actions, gestures; smashing things; destroying property; abusing pets; and/or displaying weapons.

Emotional Abuse: Someone putting you down, calling you names, making you think you're crazy, playing mind games, humiliating you, and/or making you feel guilty.

Denying and Blaming: Someone making light of the abuse and not taking concerns about it seriously, saying the abuse didn't happen, shifting responsibility for abusive behavior, and/or blaming you.

Using Children: Someone using your children to make you feel guilty about the children, using the children to relay messages; using visitation to harass you and/or threatening to take the children away.

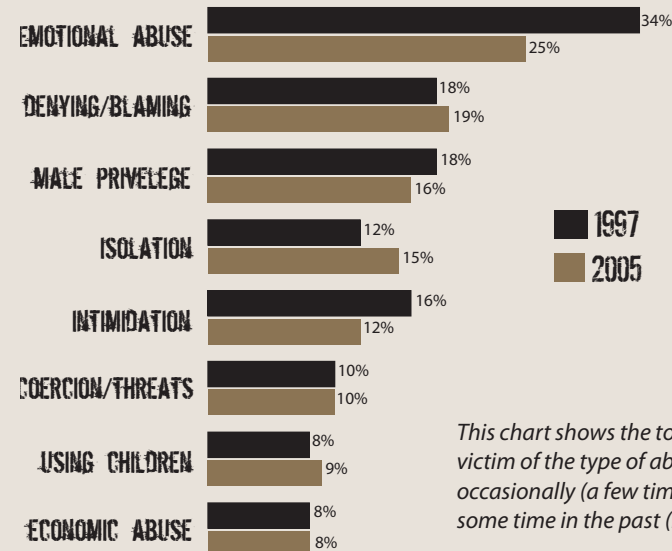
Male Privilege: Discrimination based on gender. Makes major financial and family decisions, is the one to define women's roles, and rules for the relationship are not the same for both partners. Nationwide, according to the Family Violence Prevention Fund (www.endabuse.org) in 2001, women accounted for 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence and men 15% of the victims. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Feb. 2003)

Economic Abuse: Someone preventing you from getting or keeping a job, making you ask for money, giving you an allowance that does not meet family needs, taking your money, and/or not letting you know about or have access to family income.

Physical Abuse: Someone pushing or shoving you; hitting, slugging, or striking you; and/or strangling you.

Sexual Abuse: Someone wanting you to do something sexual that you don't want to do, intimately touching you when you don't want to be touched, and/or forcing you to watch pornography or sex acts.

Victim Advocate: A trained victim/witness counselor, with compassion, dedication, and good interpersonal skills, who acts as a liaison for victims of crime and their families.



This chart shows the total percentage of respondents who indicate they are a victim of the type of abuse in question, whether it be rarely (one time a year or less), occasionally (a few times a year), regularly (one time a month), often (weekly), or at some time in the past (not currently.) For more details, see the full study.

THE FACE of Domestic VIOLENCE IN UTAH

Dan Jones & Associates Inc.
Summary of Domestic Violence
Incidence and Prevalence Study
December 2005

REASONS

Why Domestic Violence Victims Do Not Report Abuse

FEAR	PROBABLY A REASON		DEFINITELY A REASON	
	1997	2005	1997	2005
The victims fear what the perpetrator will do to her and/or the children.	23%	29%	72%	66%
The victim keeps hoping the perpetrator will change.	29%	39%	67%	58%
Victims are unwilling to break up the family.	42%	42%	51%	51%
Victims feel isolated and may have no one to talk to.	44%	46%	48%	46%
Victim is afraid of becoming homeless (not being able to return home).	N/A	50%	N/A	43%
Victim doesn't want perpetrator to go to jail; just wants abuse to stop.	40%	51%	55%	42%
Victims don't have enough money.	43%	41%	30%	37%
Victims have limited job skills.	45%	45%	36%	37%
Victim is afraid she won't be believed.	N/A	52%	N/A	37%
Victims don't know where to go for help.	48%	50%	35%	33%
The victim has a history of abuse in her family.	50%	52%	34%	33%
The victim expects abuse and, in fact, feels she deserves it.	48%	57%	28%	23%
Victim has a legal history and fears arrest if law enforcement responds.	N/A	47%	N/A	15%
The victim injured the perpetrator during the assault on her.	N/A	42%	N/A	12%

MORE THAN ONE IN THREE

women report having been a victim of some form of domestic violence.

THERE

has been very little change—for the better or worse—in the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence and abuse in Utah since the 1997 study. Domestic violence is still perceived as a serious problem and as in 1997, six in seven (86%) women say that domestic violence is a problem in their communities.

Nearly two-thirds of women (63%)—victims and non-victims—believe that violence against women is increasing, which is unchanged from 1997. However, the number of women who believe that violence against women is remaining steady increased slightly in 2005 (1997: 25% and 2005: 29%).

Prevalence of Domestic Violence and Abuse

The following facts are taken from the Incidence and Prevalence Study conducted by Dan Jones & Associates Inc.

- Surprisingly, the percentage of women who indicate that their parents abused them doubled from 12% in 1997 to 24% in 2005. One in four (25%) witnessed domestic violence as a child, which is about the same as in 1997 (23%).
- Victims are considerably more likely than non-victims to have been abused by their parents (36%) or to have witnessed domestic violence as a child (34%).
- Of note, the percentage of women who claim their children witness or hear verbal abuse declined from 21% in 1997 to 11% in 2005, and the percentage who say their children witness or hear physical abuse also dropped from 7% to 3%.
- Perhaps not surprisingly, the children of victims are significantly more likely to have witnessed or heard verbal (22%) and physical abuse (7%).

- Victims are also more likely to indicate that their children abuse them (overall: 4% and victims: 9%).
- Unchanged from 1997, one in nine (11%) women have considered harming themselves, and one in fourteen (7%) have attempted suicide.
- Alarminglly, 22% of victims have considered harming themselves, and 12% have attempted suicide.
- Ten percent of victims have injured another person while attempting to protect themselves.
- Less than one in ten victims (6%) have ever become homeless as a result of domestic violence.
- Two in ten (21%) victims have been in more than one abusive relationship. Of these respondents, half (49%) indicate they have been in two relationships; 22% say three relationships; and 15% report four or more relationships. Twelve percent of victims are currently in a relationship where they are a victim of domestic violence.
- On the positive side, nearly three in four women (73%)—victims and non-victims—feel that if they told people about abuse in their family, people would believe them. In addition, nearly all (95%) believe there is help available for domestic violence if they needed it. These numbers are up slightly from 1997, 69% and 92%, respectively.
- Still, 11% of victims say there are secrets withheld about domestic violence in their household.

